population of 1000 persons and above, 524 of population between 500-999 person and 1439 habitations with population between 250-499 persons.

The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) aims to provide road connectivity to all Unconnected Habitations in rural areas with population of 500 persons and above by the end of the Tenth Plan Period (2007). In case of Hill States, like Uttaranchal, Habitations with population between 250-499 persons could also be taken up. There is no proposal to link small Habitations, such as Allasu (which has population of only 52) under the PMGSY.

More beneficiary in A.P. under Annapurna Scheme

1880. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received in the Ministry for considering 1 lakh more destitute senior citizens beneficiaries under Annapurna Scheme;

(b) if yes, the details of such request; and

(c) what steps the ministry has contemplated on such request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K PATIL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A request for covering additional 1 lakh beneficiaries has been received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. As the State-wise allocations are made in accordance with allocation criteria laid down in the Guidelines of the Annapurna Scheme, no inter-State re-allocations have been done.

Improper implementation of the Annapurna Scheme

1881. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Annapurna Scheme is not being properly implemented due to certain technical problems;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, State-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Orissa Government has requested for additional foodgrains and money under the scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) and (b) In accordance with the eligibility criteria of Annapurna Scheme, destitutes aged 65 years or above are eligible for foodgrains under the Scheme, provided they are not in receipt of pension under the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) or State Pension Scheme. However, the four states of Haryana, Punjab, Gujarat and Karnataka have informed that they do not have any eligible persons fulfiling this criteria of the Scheme.

(c) and (d) The State Government of Orissa have requested for an additional allocation of Rs. 85.53 lakhs under the Scheme. As the State-wise allocations are made in accordance with the criteria laid down in the Guidelines of the Annapurna Scheme, no inter-State re-allocations have been done.

Misuse of food meant for 'Food for Work' Programme

1882. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States misuse of food meant for the 'Food for Work' programme has been reported;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) to (c) Certain complaints received in respect of diversion of foodgrains, timely payment of wages in time and involvement of contractors regarding the implementation of the Food for Work Programme have been forwarded to the